


The Arboretum Bulletin



VOL. V. No. 5

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

MAY, 1942

Demonstration Victory Garden at the Arboretum

AS THIS ARTICLE is being written, the vegetable gardening situation in the Pacific Northwest is still not clear. There are those who insist that every individual who has available space should produce something for his or her own use during summer, fall and next winter. That this policy is being pursued enthusiastically is evidenced by the tremendous sales of vegetable seeds, as against flower seeds, in our leading stores.

Various governmental agencies, both state and federal, have stressed the need for utmost efficiency in the production of vegetables by amateur and professional growers. This policy was apparently developed because of the unfortunate experience of many gardeners during the last World War when great quantities of seed and fertilizer were wasted through ignorance and over-enthusiasm. As a result, responsible agricultural offices are now cautioning amateur vegetable growers to use extreme care in every detail of plant culture so that a maximum crop can be harvested from each garden that is developed.

In line with the program of education in vegetable gardening, a demonstration plot has been laid out and is being maintained in the Arboretum nursery. The garden is based upon the plan which appeared in Washington State College Extension Service Bulletin No. 280 for farms. This plan provides an area sufficiently large for a family of five people. The area is about one-fourth of an acre in extent and on it are growing those vegetable crops from which the amateur can get the greatest quantities of edible foods. The nursery is open at all times during daylight hours and we urge all of you who are interested in learning more about the efficient handling of vegetable crops to visit it and to take advantage of the information which is included on the large sign which tells about the culture of each kind of plant. The selection of varieties was made using the information presented by Washington State College authorities.

The garden is being sponsored jointly by the Seattle Civilian War Commission, the Seattle Garden Club and the Arboretum. Hundreds of people have already taken advantage of it; eighty have registered for the formal course in vegetable gardening that is offered on Wednesday nights, 6:30 to 8:30, and on Saturday afternoons from 1 to 3. Funds for the purchase of fertilizer, equipment, seeds, plants and labeling were provided by the Seattle Garden Club.

The Importance of Insect Control in the Vegetable Garden

Efficient operation in the production of vegetables includes the purchase of seeds of good varieties in proper quantity, the purchase of and proper use of correct fertilizers, the control of insects and diseases, clean cultivation, proper rotation of crops and providing for the continual use of every square foot of garden area.

It is impossible to harvest a full crop of vegetables unless insects are controlled. Here are some hints which may help the amateur grower.

1. Plant radishes in small rectangular or square areas so that a cheese-cloth screen can be easily placed over and around them. This is the best way to keep out the worms which spoil the radish for eating purposes.

2. Handle carrots in the same way as radishes; make three successive plantings in a small, rectangular or square, screened area, rather than using one large planting to last the whole summer.

3. Protect cabbage and cauliflower from root maggots by very early planting and by using tar paper squares, $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches on a side, around each plant at the ground level. Use pyrethrum dust or spray for aphids and various chewing worms.

4. Use rotenone dust or spray on peas for aphids. Apply the dust to the blooms as soon as they begin to open. Repeat at five-day intervals until flowering is past; this will protect against pea weevil.

5. Watch for severe infestations of flea-beetles on beans, especially during late May and early June. Apply rotenone dust or spray for control.

6. Late potatoes should be planted after June 1 in order to avoid flea-beetles. Early potatoes should be harvested before July 1 to minimize flea-beetle damage. Use rotenone or calcium arsenate dust for control.

7. Flea-beetles may also attack beets, carrots, radishes, chard and lettuce. A rotenone dust or spray on these crops will keep the beetles and aphids under control. Watch for a big flight of beetles during late May and early June.

8. Watch for chewing worms and flea-beetles on tomatoes. Use calcium arsenate dust early in the season to control. For late season protection, use rotenone dust or spray.

9. Use slug-bait freely to eradicate these pests.

10. In sections where earwigs are prevalent, apply special bait to protect corn. Corn ear-worm can be controlled by placing mineral oil containing prethrum extract into each ear at the proper time.

11. As protection against onion maggots, mix the seed with calomel and plant seed shallow.

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Tobacco Cans Needed

The Arboretum is very anxious to obtain a large quantity of empty, flat, pocket-size tobacco cans to be used at the greenhouses for seed storage, stratification and herbarium purposes. Anyone having any such cans available now or in the future will be rendering a distinct service by bringing them to the greenhouses.

—D. O. C.

Book Review

By CAROL WIETING

GARDEN EASILY, by H. K. Morse, Scribner & Sons, March, 1942. \$2.50.

WHEN Dr. Charles W. Eliot was propounding the theories of self-help in education, which eventually led to the Five Foot Book Shelf, little did he imagine that some day his principles would make gardening easier. Yet the principle of regularly applied, streamlined activity is the formula recommended in the new book published by Scribners' Sons— "Garden Easily," by H. K. Morse. To garden easily might actually require more than fifteen minutes each day, but by following the work-saving and time-saving program suggested in this book one would surely bring the garden beautiful within easier reach. Methods for saving time while accomplishing the same result are good news to a world full of busy people.

H. K. Morse bases much of the development of the book on the opening paragraph which instructs that every plant lives happily somewhere or it would not be in existence. The problem then is to take a group of unrelated plants from far corners of the world and build for them a common environment in which they will thrive. But these plants must thrive with no great exertion on our part and they must present in addition an attractive and interesting picture.

To do this "Garden Easily" suggests at the start the garden should be "designed for leisure," with all unnecessary steps eliminated. For instance, if you must limit your acquaintance with your garden to only a few minutes each day, tools, hose and faucets should be conveniently placed. Another good suggestion— an unclipped hedge saves labor. The natural garden is recommended, too. The dignity of a formal garden takes hours of extra labor to maintain whereas the natural garden can stand much neglect and still give pleasure. Two prerequisites are necessary to make this easy gardening a success. The first is a thoroughly and properly made bed for the plants and the second is the selection of plants which enjoy the same kinds of conditions so that no further doctoring will be necessary.

When it comes to the selection of plants, the author shows not only good taste but exhibits some good basic rules. One of these is especially worth quoting. "It is well to study our own locality to see which plants seem naturally to fit there. A reliable nurseryman, through years of experience, will know which plants are especially adaptable in our own countryside. If that nurseryman is a man of honor, as I suppose he be, he will not embroider the truth with "nursery tales." But beware the itinerant huckster who comes to our door vending truckloads of green things for the garden."

Gardening easily includes the free use of trees and shrubs. Careful selection for minimum maintenance with a maximum number of seasons of interest. In a "Garden Easily" garden, one plant has to do double or triple duty. Spring flowers for garden ornament and cutting, fall foliage or fruit as well as some winter interest such as colored bark are necessary for more plants to pass muster in the author's garden. A number of trees and shrubs which are acceptable are listed and described. Furthermore, locations and combinations of these desirables are suggested as a time-saving device. Another exhibit of good taste is shown in a critical reference to "—heavily 'bearded' houses where forest evergreens have been planted so near the windows that gloom abounds without and within at any season."

The author bewails failure with *Daphne cneorum* which is reasonable as all plants do not thrive for everyone who

wishes to try them. Another other than the author has suggested, with some happily neglected and thriving specimens in mind, that the best cure for certain finicky plants is to grow a half acre of vegetables. Little time will be available for pampering the touchy ones and they will probably commence to thrive.

A minor fault might be noted by some in the use of capitals in the proper naming of plants. This could be a minor technicality and could be easily overlooked. Many of the plants listed in the book are grouped according to season of bloom. For our section the general blooming seasons of the plants mentioned in the book could be moved toward the winter both ways. With this in mind, the suggestions would lend themselves well to our gardens.

Equal to the pleasures of working in one's own garden are the memories of plant groupings and garden scenes viewed in other gardens which come to mind for filling odd moments while waiting for the bus or perhaps the dentist. "Garden Easily" has many full-page photographs of desirable garden scenes as well as the verbal pictures.

Chapter headings as well as the flavor of the book in general lead one to hasten along pleasantly. The information presented is so accurately spiced that no prolonged mental mastication is necessary at any point. Items from the menu broaden the anticipation—"Vines—Casual and Carefree," "Bulbs Which Rodents Seldom Relish," "Foes and Friends in the Garden," and, best of all, "Short Cuts to Lessen Labor." This last chapter was all too short but the essence of the theme is sprinkled freely throughout the book.

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Flowering Cherries

By W. H. WARREN

Superintendent of Parks, Victoria, B. C.

(Continued from last month)

DAIKOKU, one of the best double pinks, is excellent in every way. Like Kanzan it is upright in habit, but with paler bronze foliage. Flowers are slightly larger, paler in color and flatter in shape, with 4 to 20 leafy carpels in the center. Petals are toothed at the tips and borne on long stalks up to four inches in length.

Fugenzo, another attractive double pink cherry, is equally as attractive in bud as in flower. The pale green sepals clasp over the truncate shaped pink buds in a manner characteristic of this and one or two other varieties. The delicate colors never fail to thrill the writer each spring. It is free flowering but less vigorous than Kanzan. Because of its flat-headed habit, Wohlert recommended that it be trained for archways, planted 6 feet apart and 12 feet between the rows. Hokusai has not been grown long enough here to judge its merits, but from all reports it is one of the best double pinks. It is grown by some nurseries as *Prunus serrulata rosea*. Horinji is an upright growing cherry with double pale pink flowers which fade almost to white and open successively over a long period in April. The sepals and flower stalks are characteristically reddish in color, but the scales are peculiarly dry and loosely attached so that the buds are seldom plump. Although Russell says it is an excellent variety, it appears to be inferior at Victoria to Kanzan, Diakoku and other double pinks. Kanzan or Kwanzan, best known double pink, needs no introduction to lovers of flowering cherries. It grows vigorously upright. Young trees should be trained, by thinning and spacing the branches, to make a well-balanced framework of main branches and by nipping the tips of young growth in late spring to cause side branching in order to make a thicker

tree. Little mention is made in literature of the autumn coloration of this variety, which is very good.

Varieties of Kanzan

There are many variations of Kanzan. Wohlerl introduced two, Curtis Bok, and Mrs. A. E. Wohlerl. Kirin makes a broader, shorter tree, slightly earlier in flower, otherwise identical with Kanzan. Yae Kanzan is similar except for larger flowers. Masu-yama is a form with paler pink flowers.

Shirofugen is a large widespread tree classified as a double pink by Russell, but the rosy pink flowers soon fade to pure white, with the bottoms of the lower petals tinged brown on old blossoms. The leafy carpels, two, three or often five, are conspicuous as in Kofugens and Shogetsu. Foliage resembles that of Kanzan in color. The trifid bud scales noted by Russell are not always present nor are they characteristic of this variety alone. Shogetsu is a broad-headed small tree characterized by bright green young leaves with sharply serrated edges and apple pink buds, double flowers, very pale pink, white in the center with one or two leafy carpels, hanging in long fluorescences up to six inches long. This and Shirofugen are the latest to bloom. The tips of the petals are frayed. Both peduncles and pedicels are long. Sepals brown and entire. The above details differ somewhat from Russell's notes. This tree is a favorite amongst all who know it. It makes a smaller tree than Shirofugen, but the flowers are superior. Both Shogetsu and Shirofugen bloom over a long period. Tanko-shinju or Pink Pearl is a fragrant, semi-double, pink cherry fairly well known around Seattle. Flowers are pale pink with about ten long twisted petals, fading almost to pink, often with a pink eye or calyx in older flowers. Flowers resemble those of Fugenzo except for the lesser number of petals. It is noted by Russell as an excellent variety, but Mr. Jacob Umlauff claims that the lumpy habit of flowering at the tips of the branches spoils its beauty. We are inclined to agree and heavily discount the ornamental value of varieties with this habit. It is probably caused by a tendency for buds on the inside branches to die and by the short pedicels and peduncles on the flowers. Fukurokuju is very similar in every way. Shirotae, the well-known Mt. Fuji, is a large-growing, flat-headed tree with semi-double flowers, sometimes single in young trees. Petals are toothed and the calyx of old flowers often turns red or pink. The green leaves are large and coarsely serrate. The pistil is solitary and the calyx cavity is noticeably large.

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Phlox

By ROSALIND CLISE

Location: Prefer full sun—will tolerate partial shade.

Time to Plant: September best—almost any time thereafter until late spring. Shallow rooter.

Type of Soil: Rather heavy, rich, well-drained garden loam high in organic content.

Type of Fertilizer: Mulch—barnyard well rotted.

Time to Fertilize: Mulch lightly in fall with manure and work in around roots in spring.

Time to Spray and Type of Spray Material: For mildew dust with sulphur. Frequent cultivation and plenty of water during growing season will prevent mildew and practically all other diseases.

Pruning: Pull off or shake off all dead flowers from trusses before seed is formed and other flowers will come or trusses may be broken off fairly high and other flower heads will develop.

Propagation: By seed and by division of old clumps, by root cuttings and by cuttings from young growing shoots. Putting root cuttings in cold frames in July makes good

plants next year. Old clumps lifted spring or fall, separate into from 1 to 3 stems, spread roots out on replanting. Cover crown 1 inch. Should be divided every 3 to 4 years.

Uses: Rock varieties in rock garden; tall growing in perennial borders.

Objections if any: Reseed easily and these seedlings revert to bad colors. Should be destroyed.

Remarks: A large family including annual and perennial types. The annual type most desirable for the summer border and no plant repays so well in color and fragrance as the tall perennial type.

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Lilies

By MARGARET FLICKINGER

Location: Light shade or filtered sunshine.

Time to Plant: Fall, spring or midsummer, depending on variety.

Type of Soil: Acid, alkaline, neutral, according to variety. Medium well drained.

Type of Fertilizer: Well rotted barnyard, leaf mold.

Time to Fertilize: Spring and fall, a mulch.

Time to Spray and Type of Spray Material: Spring, dust with copper-lime dust for Botrytis blight. Candelum is particularly subject.

Propagation: Seed soon after ripe. Scales planted in sandy soil in summer, stalks after blooming. Planted in sandy soil.

Pruning: Do not allow seed pods to form unless desiring seed and save only from best plants and top pods. Burn old stalks.

Uses: Perennial borders.

Remarks: Bulbs resent moving and so take some time to recover. Leave until at least three blooming stalks come from one bulb then separate bulbs and replant.

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Garden Magazines for Australia

Mr. Perry B. Truax suggests that members of the Foundation can make very good use of their old copies of garden magazines by making them available to Mr. Fred M. Danks of Victoria, Australia. According to the information which we have, it is impossible for the Australians to expend funds for the purchase of such publications and since Mr. Danks is so vitally interested in horticulture and since he has already given the Arboretum and some of the members of the Foundation considerable help, we would like to have you consider the above suggestion seriously. Used copies of current or old publications can be left at the Foundation office, 5532 White Building.

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The movement which culminated in the establishment of the present Arboretum is not a new or recent one. It is recorded that the choice of the present location of the University of Washington campus was made with a view to the desirability of adjacent areas for an arboretum development. In the early 1920's and for a few years prior to 1920, there existed an Arboretum society, composed of some of Seattle's leading citizens, which was organized for the purpose of sponsoring an Arboretum planting. However, a real impetus was not given the movement until 1933 when the State of Washington was casting about for worthy projects for unemployment relief. The true stimulus was not applied until 1935 and 1936, when the present Arboretum Foundation was incorporated and when active sponsorship was undertaken by the University of Washington. Since that time, and down to the present, the Arboretum has grown rapidly.

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THE ARBORETUM BULLETIN
Published by the
Arboretum Foundation, 5532 White Building
SEATTLE

Sec. 562, P. L. & R.